

league along the banks of the Eyder. The manners and customs of the inhabitants bear the stamp of peculiarity ; they are fond of pursuing their occupations in the open air. The old men are often seen sitting round tables placed before their doors sipping tea, while the children play before them, and the young people are at their work. These groups have a very picturesque effect, and convey a gratifying idea of the happiness of the people. On seeing the worthy citizens of Hamburg assembled round their doors I could not help think-« ing of a beautiful remark of Montesquieu. When he went to Florence with a letter of recommendation to the Prime Minister of the Grand Duke of Tuscany he found him sitting at the threshold of his door, inhaling the fresh air and conversing with some friends. ^al see/' said Montesquieu, ^u that I am arrived among a happy people, since their Prime Minister can enjoy his leisure moments thus/'

A sort of patriarchal simplicity characterizes the manners of the inhabitants of Hamburg. They do not visit each other much, and only by invitation ; but on such occasions they display great luxury beneath their simple exterior. They are methodical and punctual to an extraordinary degree, of this I recollect a curious instance. I was very intimate with P»aron Woght, a man of talent; and information, and exceedingly amiable manners. One day he failed to make us a farewell visit as he intended to set out on the following day for Paris. On Madame de Hourrienne expressing a hope that, he would not protract his absence beyond six months, the period he had fixed upon, he replied, "Be assured, madam, nothing shall prevent me getting home on the day I have appointed, for I have invited a party of friends to dine with me on the day after my return." The P»aron returned at the appointed time, and none of his guests required to be reminded of his invitation at six months' date.¹

¹ Among the peculiarities of a former Lord of the Manor of WUN a similar one; he would invite friends to dine with him at London six or eight months after the date of the invitation; he would then start for the Ionian Islands, where he was organizing a university for the Greeks stay there for months and then, getting over to Otranto or Brindisi, he would travel back through Italy, Switzerland, and Knutsm to meet his dinner-party in London. He is generally so timed matters as to reach his home only a few hours before the dinner W.IH